AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A printing method for an optical printer wherein a fluorescent display panel is driven as a light source of a printing head based on electronic image data to print an image on a photographic recording medium, the fluorescent display panel having an array of light emitting elements, the printing method comprising:

providing an exposure area for accepting the photographic recording medium;

introducing the recording medium to the exposure area; and

performing a preliminary emission process that is executed before the optical printer actually starts printing an image, to drive all of the light emitting elements of the fluorescent display panel for a constant time to remove deposited residual gas off the light emitting elements, ~~and~~

wherein the printing head is moved out of ~~an~~ the exposure area ~~of the photographic recording medium~~ during the preliminary emission process, and

wherein a time period for performing the preliminary emission process includes a period where the photographic recording medium is in the exposure area.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): A printing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preliminary emission process is executed immediately before each image starts being printed.

4. (original): A printing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preliminary emission process is executed immediately after a power switch of the printer is turned on.

5. (currently amended): A printer-incorporated electronic still camera having an imaging device for obtaining electronic image signals from optical images, a storage device for storing the electronic image signals in a memory, and a printing device for printing an image on a photographic recording medium based on the electronic image signals read out from the memory, the still camera comprising:

a fluorescent display panel as a light source of a printing head of the printing device, the fluorescent display panel comprising an array of light emitting elements in a vacuum container;

an exposure section for accepting the photographic recording medium;

a driving device for driving the light emitting elements, the driving device making a preliminary emission process to drive all of the light emitting elements for a constant time before driving the light emitting elements to print an image on the photosensitive recording medium based on the electronic image signals, and

a head scanning device for moving the printing head from an end to another end of ~~an~~ the exposure ~~area~~ section ~~of the photographic recording medium~~ to print an image on the photographic recording medium ~~in the exposure area~~,

wherein the head scanning device removes the printing head from the exposure ~~area~~ section during the preliminary emission process, and

wherein a time period for performing the preliminary emission process includes a period where the photographic recording medium is in the exposure section.

6. (original): A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a timer for measuring an inactive period of the fluorescent display panel, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the timer detects that the fluorescent display panel has not been driven for a predetermined time.

7. (original): A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a battery detection device for detecting whether power source batteries are loaded in the still camera or not, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the battery detection device detects that the power source batteries are newly loaded.

8. (original): A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a detection device for detecting whether the photographic recording medium is loaded in the still camera or not, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the detection device detects that the photographic recording medium is newly loaded.

9. (original): A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 8, wherein the photographic recording medium is a self-development type photo film sheet, and the still camera is provided with a pack loading chamber for loading a film pack containing a plurality of self-development type photo film sheets therein, and wherein the detection device is located in the film loading chamber to detect whether the film pack is loaded or not.

10. (canceled):

11. (previously presented): The printing method of claim 1, wherein a color filter is disposed in a light path of the fluorescent display panel during exposure of the recording medium.

12. (previously presented): The printing method of claim 1, wherein a micro lens array is disposed in a light path of the fluorescent display panel during exposure of the recording medium.

13. (previously presented): The printing method of claim 11, wherein the color filter is one of a red filter, a blue filter and a green filter.

14. (previously presented): The still camera of claim 5, comprising:

a color filter, wherein the color filter is disposed in a light path of the fluorescent display panel during exposure of the recording medium.

15. (previously presented): The still camera of claim 5, comprising:

a micro lens array, wherein the micro lens array is disposed in a light path of the fluorescent display panel during exposure of the recording medium.

16. (previously presented): The still camera of claim 14, wherein the color filter is one of a red filter, a blue filter and a green filter.

17. (new): The printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a battery detection device for detecting whether rechargeable power source batteries have been recharged, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process upon detection that the rechargeable power source batteries have been recharged.